

**Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 8, 2021**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Buffina Crochet	Jennings	X	
Lorraine Bertrand, Vice-Chairman	Elton		X
John Marceaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Lake Arthur		X
Roberta Palermo	Lake Arthur	X	
Ronnie Petree	Welsh	X	
Sheila Chapman	Lake Arthur	X	
Becky Hudson	Welsh	X	
Greg Marcantel, Interim		X	
Creed Romano, CEO/Director		X	
Dione Sabelhaus, Marketing Director		X	
Kyler Royer, Tourist Specialist		X	

Guest: Elizabeth McLaughlin, Clay Higgins Office

**Call to Order:** **Ronnie Petree** called meeting to order at 8:02 am. **Ronnie Petree** led us in prayer and pledge.

**Welcome:** Ronnie Petree welcomed Creed Romano as the CEO/President of JDP TC, EDC and COC.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by **Becky Hudson** and seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, passed unanimously to approve the June 8, 2021, agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by **Becky Hudson** and seconded by **Sheila Chapman**, passed unanimously to approve the minutes of April 2021.

**Approval of Financials:** Moved by **Roberta Palermo** and seconded by **Buffina Crochet**, passed unanimously to approve the financials of March and April 2021.

**Public Comments:** Elizabeth McLaughlin, field representative with Congressman Clay Higgins' office, covers Jeff Davis, Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. "Please let me know if our office may be of assistance to you and your community with FEMA, federal grants, etc. Congress recesses in August so if there are any site visits or key groups that would like to meet with Congress Higgins, please contact our office."

**Old Business:**

- A motion was made by **Becky Hudson** and seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, to ratify Sheila Chapman as Lake Arthur's representative board member as of February 9, 2021, passed unanimously.
- Dione Sabelhaus reported representatives from FEMA came and inspected the property for damages from the hurricanes. They suspect the inside of our office might have mold in the front office, ceiling sagging in the back office and other areas have damages. FEMA will get back with the Mayor of Jennings to let us know how to proceed with damages to our building.

**New Business:**

- There were no budget amendments
- Greg Marcantel, CPA reviewed the 2021-2022 budget and engagement agreement. Our budget exceeds \$500,000.00, so we are required to publish in the newspaper to have a

public hearing. The meeting will be on June 22, 2021, at the Tourist Commission Office at 8:00am.

- A motion was made by Roberta Palermo and seconded by Buffina Crochet for Sheila Chapman to be the Chairman of the JDP Tourist Commission board.
- A motion was made by **Becky Hudson**, seconded by **Roberta Palermo** to approve **Creed Romano** as a signer on the bank account and authorize for a credit card, passed unanimously.
- A motion made by **Roberta Palermo**, seconded by **Becky Hudson**, to approve the Tourist Development & Marketing Grant to Welsh Hometown Festival, passed unanimously.

**CEO/President Creed Romano:** Creed Romano is working with LED on a program called Louisiana Development Ready Communities. LED presented this program to the JDP Police Jury at their last meeting and it was well received. Once the Police Jury agrees to participate and executes the requisite resolution, LED will start the official process by holding an official kickoff meeting. The Louisiana Development Ready Communities (LDRC) Program encourages and supports selected Louisiana communities to become development ready, competitive and “open for business” by creating and implementing a strategic community and economic development plan but this also will help tourist commission and Chamber of Commerce. We are watching certain bill in legislation affecting tourism, as I get the information, we will pass it along to the board. The traveling trend post covid for the summer travelers will be mostly by driving.

**Marketing Director report:** The Swamp STOL Flyin is scheduled for June 11 and 12, 2021. They will open the event to the public on Friday and Saturday 8am – 4pm admission fee will be \$5 per person or \$8 per person for both days. Creed and I have been working with Shelton Hunt with the VA Memorial wall to be in the I-10 park. We are working on the final details of where the wall placed. I have a meeting with Stearman Fly in committee next week to discuss if they are having the event this year, due to the Days Inn remodeling.

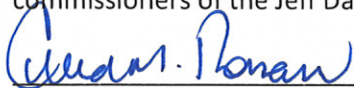
**Kyler Royer, TIS:** Kyler Royer reported the following:

Crawfish Tours count: 16 tours and 247 guests  
Visitor Count: April 2021 ~ 2692 guest  
April 2020 ~ 0 guest (closed due to Covid)  
Gift Shop Sales: April-May 2021 ~ \$20,197.00  
April-May 2020 ~ \$2,155.50

**Announcements:** The next Tourist Commission meeting will be **June 22, 2021**, to approve the budget.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by **Sheila Chapman** and seconded by **Roberta Palermo**, passed unanimously to adjourn.

I, Creed Romano, certify that the above and foregoing constitute the minutes of the meeting of the commissioners of the Jeff Davis Tourist Commission held on June 8, 2021.



Creed M. Romano, CEO/President